

*Claim Rejections*

Claims 1, 2, 10, and 12 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by the Bowden reference (U.S. Patent No. 5,801,703). Applicants traverse the rejections.

The Examiner mentioned on page 4 of the office action that the term "data items" is interpreted "as being analogous to menu items such as tools, features, or selections." Claims 1 and 12 are directed to data records being handled through controls and not directed to menu items such as tools, features, or selections. Claims 1 and 12 have been amended to clarify this distinction by reciting the term "data records."

More specifically, claims 1 and 12 are directed to the manipulation of data records that are from a database or equivalent. As required among other things in claims 1 and 12, the second control that is accessible from a first control allows modification of at least one of the data records from the database.

In contrast, the Bowden reference does not disclose controls containing data records, but rather discloses software tools/operations appearing in menus (see the Bowden reference, col. 1, lines 21-27; col. 2, lines 40-51). Software operations are significantly different than manipulation of data records as recited in claims 1 and 12.

For example, software operations are not data records -- software operations are the agent of change to be effected upon data records, and the data records are the recipient of the change caused by software operations. Another example that further highlights these differences is provided in claim 3. Claim 3 illustrates the difference between software operations and data records by reciting that a pop-up window provides

a menu of operations, wherein the operations perform actions upon a selected data record appearing within a control.

For the reasons provided above, the pending claims are allowable over the cited references.